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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Burundi

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

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Concluding remarks and responses of Burundi to the recommendations of the third cycle of the universal periodic review on 18 January 2018

1. Burundi expresses its warm thanks to the 96 delegations that participated in the third cycle of its universal periodic review on 18 January 2018.

2. It welcomes the 242 recommendations made, particularly those relating to improving the human rights of groups that require special protection, such as women and children, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples.

3. As stated during the interactive dialogue, Burundi has already made significant efforts in introducing major changes at both the normative and institutional levels with a view to promoting and protecting human rights, particularly in the implementation of international standards in each of the Government's areas of action.

4. As part of its commitment to ensuring that its citizens enjoy the broadest and most effective exercise of their fundamental rights, Burundi amended its Constitution (Basic Law) through a Government-funded referendum held on 17 May 2018, in which the Burundian people exercised their inalienable right as a matter of national sovereignty, in accordance with the basic principles of human rights, with a record turnout of 96 per cent and 73 per cent in favour of the amendments.

5. The people of Burundi continue to demonstrate their political maturity in order to secure and sustain institutional stability and social cohesion, which augurs well for free, transparent and peaceful elections to the institutions of the Republic in 2020.

6. In the following paragraphs, Burundi presents its position on the recommendations made and reaffirms its commitment to working in line with the shared goal of the universal human rights system to guarantee full enjoyment of their fundamental rights for all Burundians.

7. The following recommendations are of priority national interest and Burundi will take all necessary measures to implement them:

137.1, 137.2, 137.3, 137.4, 137.6, 137.8, 137.9, 137.10, 137.20, 137.21, 137.22, 137.23, 137.40, 137.41, 137.64, 137.68, 137.69, 137.70, 137.71, 137.75, 137.78, 137.79, 137.80, 137.81, 137.82, 137.83, 137.84, 137.85, 137.86, 137.87, 137.88, 137.89, 137.90, 137.91, 137.92, 137.100, 137.104, 137.105, 137.108, 137.110, 137.112, 137.113, 137.115, 137.135, 137.136, 137.137, 137.138, 137.139, 137.140, 137.143, 137.145, 137.146, 137.147, 137.148, 137.149, 137.171, 137.172, 137.173, 137.174, 137.175, 137.176, 137.177, 137.178, 137.179, 137.180, 137.181, 137.182, 137.183, 137.184, 137.185, 137.186, 137.187, 137.188, 137.189, 137.190, 137.191, 137.192, 137.193, 137.194, 137.195, 137.196, 135.197, 135.198, 137.199, 137.200, 137.201, 137.202, 137.203, 137.204, 137.205, 137.206, 137.207, 137.208, 137.210, 137.211, 137.212, 137.213, 137.214, 137.215, 137.216, 137.217, 137.218, 137.219, 137.220, 137.221, 137.222, 137.224, 137.225, 137.226, 137.227, 137.228, 137.229, 137.230, 137.231, 137.232, 137.233, 137.234, 137.235, 137.236, 137.237, 137.238, 137.239, 137.240, 137.241 and **137.242.**

8. The recommendations of which Burundi has taken note have been grouped together by theme, as outlined below:

Recommendation 137.5 to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

Recommendation 137.7 to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure;

Recommendations 137.11 and **137.12** concerning the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;

Recommendations 137.13, 137.14, 137.15, 137.16, 137.17, 137.18, 137.19, 137.52, 137.53, 137.54, 137.55 and **137.56** concerning accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

Recommendations 137.24, 137.25 and **137.26** concerning the authorization of visits by special procedures mandate holders;

Recommendations 137.27, 137.28, 137.29, 137.30, 137.31, 137.32, 137.33, 137.34, 137.35, 137.36, 137.37, 137.38, 137.39, 137.40, 137.59 and **137.62** concerning the functioning of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Burundi and cooperation with that Office, the Human Rights Council and other regional and international mechanisms;

Recommendations 137.42, 137.43, 137.44, 137.45, 137.46, 137.47, 137.48, 137.49, 137.50, 137.51, 137.57, 137.58, 137.60, 137.61, 137.65, 137.66, 137.67 and **137.116** concerning the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi established by the Human Rights Council;

Recommendation 137.63 on the violation of the rights of refugees;

Recommendations 137.72, 137.73, 137.74, 137.76 and **137.77** encouraging the Government of Burundi to engage in dialogue with the political opposition in preparation for the 2020 elections;

Recommendations 137.93, 137.94, 137.95, 137.96, 137.97, 137.98, 137.99, 137.209 and **137.223** regarding the decriminalization of homosexuality;

The recommendations on the issues of extrajudicial executions, torture, arbitrary detention, impunity and the youth league of the ruling party, CNDD-FDD, namely **137.101, 137.102, 137.103, 137.106, 137.107, 137.109, 137.111, 137.114, 137.117, 137.118, 137.119, 137.120, 137.121, 137.122, 137.124, 137.125, 137.126, 136.127, 137.128, 137.129, 137.130, 137.131, 137.132, 137.133** and **137.134**.

Recommendations 137.141, 137.142 and **137.144** calling for the establishment of a judicial mechanism following the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;

Recommendations on issues of freedom of expression, assembly and association and intimidation and reprisals against journalists, human rights defenders and members of civil society, namely **137.123, 137.150, 137.151, 137.152, 137.153, 137.154, 137.155, 137.156, 137.157, 137.158, 137.159, 137.160, 137.161, 137.162, 137.163, 137.164, 137.165, 137.166, 137.167, 137.168** and **137.169**;

Recommendation 137.170 on the revision of the regulations on foreign non-governmental organizations.